## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-09 SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NRC-05 /137 W -------117459 140335Z/21

R 121601Z JUL 78 FM AMEMBASSY LIMA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 911

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EINV ENRG PE

SUBJ: GULF: DECREE LAW STILL IN DRAFTING STAGE

REF: LIMA 4992

1. ACTING CHIEF ECON/COMM SECTION HAS BEEN MAINTAINING ALMOST DAILY CONTACT WITH ENERGY AND MINES VICE MINISTER SAETTONE AND GULF LAWYER FERRERO REGARDING GULF'S EFFORTS TO RESCIND THAT PORTION OF 1975 EXPROPRIATORY DECREE LAW THAT PROHIBITS GULF OPERATIONS IN PERU. BOTH SAETTONE AND FERRERO REPORT THAT SEVERAL DRAFT DECREE LAWS HAVE ADVANCED FROM ENERGY AND MINES MINISTRY TO PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COUNCIL (COAP) ONLY TO BE RETURNED TO MINISTRY FOR REDRAFTING

APPARENTLY COAP HAS COLD FEET IN SENDING ON TO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS FOR ADOPTION A DECREE LAW WHICH HAS SOLE PURPOSE OF RESCINDING PROHIBITION OF 1975 DECREE. THUS LAWYERS FROM COAP AND MINISTRY ARE ATTEMPTING TO DRAFT NEW LANGUAGE THAT WILL AUTHORIZE A SPECIFIC GULF ACTIVITY WHICH ALSO CLEARLY BENEFITS PERU AND, AT THE SAME TIME, WILL INCLUDE A PHRASE THAT COUNTERACTS EFFECT OF PROHIBITION.

2. LATEST VERSION MINISTRY'S DRAFT (DEVELOPED WITH FERRERO'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASSISTANCE) WOULD AUTHORIZE GULF TO NEGOTIATE WITH PETROPERU FOR PURCHASE OF PERUVIAN RESIDUAL FUEL AND, IN ADDITIONAL SENTENCE, WOULD "ANNUL ANY EXISTING MEASURES OPPOSED TO THIS DECREE LAW." FERRERO INTERPRETS THIS LANGUAGE TO MEAN THAT ALL GULF OPERATIONS WOULD BE PERMITTED AND HE BELIEVES THAT ANY CHALLENGE TO THIS INTERPRETATION CAN BE OVERCOME IN PERUVIAN COURTS. FERRERO HAS PROVIDED GULF LAWYERS IN CORAL GABLES WITH DRAFT LANGUAGE, AND

HE HOPES TO HAVE CLEARANCE FROM GULF BY JULY 14. FERRERO IS HOPEFUL THAT ONCE GULF APPROVES DRAFT, IT CAN MOVE FORWARD FOR CONSIDERATION BY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AT JULY 18 SESSION.

DECON 7-11-79. SHLAUDEMAN

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NNN

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